

In re: Scott L. Vance
Application No.: 10/684,761
Filed: October 14, 2003
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REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the thorough examination of the present application as evidenced by the Official Action of March 2, 2006 (hereinafter "Office Action") and the Final Official Action of June 19, 2006 (hereinafter "Office Action"). Applicant further appreciates the courtesies extended by Examiner D'Agosta to the undersigned during the telephone interview of August 14, 2006.

During the interview, the present amendments to the claims were discussed with the Examiner, and the Examiner indicated that Claims 3-4 and 15-19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the recitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicant has rewritten Claims 3, 4, and 15-19 in independent form to place the application in condition for allowance. In particular, Claims 3 and 4 have been amended to include the recitations of Claim 1, Claims 15 and 16 have been amended to include the recitations of Claims 9 and 13, and Claims 17-19 have been amended to include the recitations of Claim 1. Claims 1, 9, and 13 have been canceled. In addition, dependent Claims 2, 5, 10, 12, and 14 have been amended to depend from Claim 3 or 15. Applicant wishes to note that these claims have been amended to expedite prosecution and subsequent allowance of the present application, and that the amendments thereof are not to be construed as an admission of the unpatentability of the subject matter recited therein.

Thus, based on the above amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claims 3, 4, and 15-19 are patentable over the cited references. In addition, dependent Claims 2 and 5-8 and dependent Claims 10-12 and 14 are patentable at least per the patentability of independent Claims 3 and 15 from which they respectively depend.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that pending Claims 2-8, 10-12, and 14-19 are now in form for allowance. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests entry of the present amendments and passing the application to issue. Applicant encourages the Examiner to contact the undersigned by telephone to resolve any remaining issues.

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Respectfully submitted,

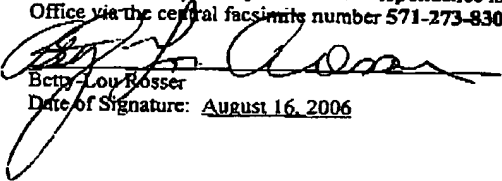


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office via the central facsimile number 571-273-8300 on August 16, 2006.



Betty Lou Bosser

Date of Signature: August 16, 2006